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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 /089 W
----------046603 172356Z /64
R 171415Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7118
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 762

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, WA
SUBJ: NAMIBIA - HERERO LEADERSHIP

1. ON APRIL 15, JOHANNES KARUAIHE, AT 53-YEAR OLD KATUTURA BUSINESSMAN AND CLSOE ASSOCIATE OF CLEMENS KAPUUO , WAS ELECTED BY THE HERERO COUNCIL OF CHIEFS AS TEMPORARY HERERO LEADER IN THE DEMOCRATIC TURNHALLE ALLIANCE (DTA). ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, WHICH WERE CONFIRMED FOR US BY DTA SECRETARY BILLY MARAIS, KARUAIHE WILL HEAD THE HERERROS IN DTA UNTIL MAY 29, WHEN THE HERERO COUNCIL OF CHIEFS MEETS TO PICK A NEW TRIBAL LEADER.
AT THAT TIME, KARUAIHE, WHO MAY ALSO BE ELECTED TRIBAL LEADER, WILL BE EITHER CONFIRMED OR REPLACED AS
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HERERO LEADER IN DTA.

2. KARUAIHE, WHEN CONTACTED BY THE EMBASSY, DISPUTED THAT HIS APPOINTMENT WAS TO LAST ONLY UNTIL MAY 29. HE SAID THAT THE DATE FOR THE ELECTION OF THE HERERO TRIBAL LEADER WAS IN FACT JULY 29, AND THAT HIS DTA POSITION WOULD LAST UNTIL THAT TIME. HE

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ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH KAPUUO HAD BEEN BOTH HERERO TRIBAL LEADER AND THE HERERO LEADER IN DTA. THE POSTS COULD WELL BE HELD BY TWO DIFFERENT PEOPLE IN FUTURE. KAPUUO'S THIRD POSITION, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL UNITED DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION (NUDO), A HERERO-DOMINATED POLITICAL PARTY, ALSO REMAINS VACANT. KARUAIHE, WHO IS ACTIVE IN NUDO, SAID HE WOULD "SOON" FIX A DATE FOR THE ELECTION OF A NEW NUDO PRESIDENT.

3. KARUAIHE IS REGARDED BY SOME WINDHOEK OBSERVERS AS AMBITIOUS AND ANXIOUS TO FILL ALL THREE OF KAPUUO'S POSITIONS. THERE IS CONTINUING SPECULATION, HOWEVER, THAT JARIRETANDU KOZONGUIZI IS LIKELY TO END UP WITH THE DTA POSITION, KOZONGUIZI IS A MEMBER OF THE SMALL MBANDERU ETHNIC FACTION OF THE HERERO S, AND AS SUCH ENJOYS LITTLE SUPPORT AMONG THE TRADITIONAL CHIEFS AND LITTLE CHANCE OF ELECTION AS TRIBAL LEADER. HE IS, HOWEVER, EASILY THE MOST URBANE AND POLISHED OF THE HERERO LEADERS. HE HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN DTA, MOST RECENTLY AS "ROVING AMBASSADOR," AND WOULD CLEARLY LIKE TO HEAD THE HERERO S IN DTA.
BOWDLER

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